DANGER forward

1

The Magazine Of The Big Red One, Vietnam

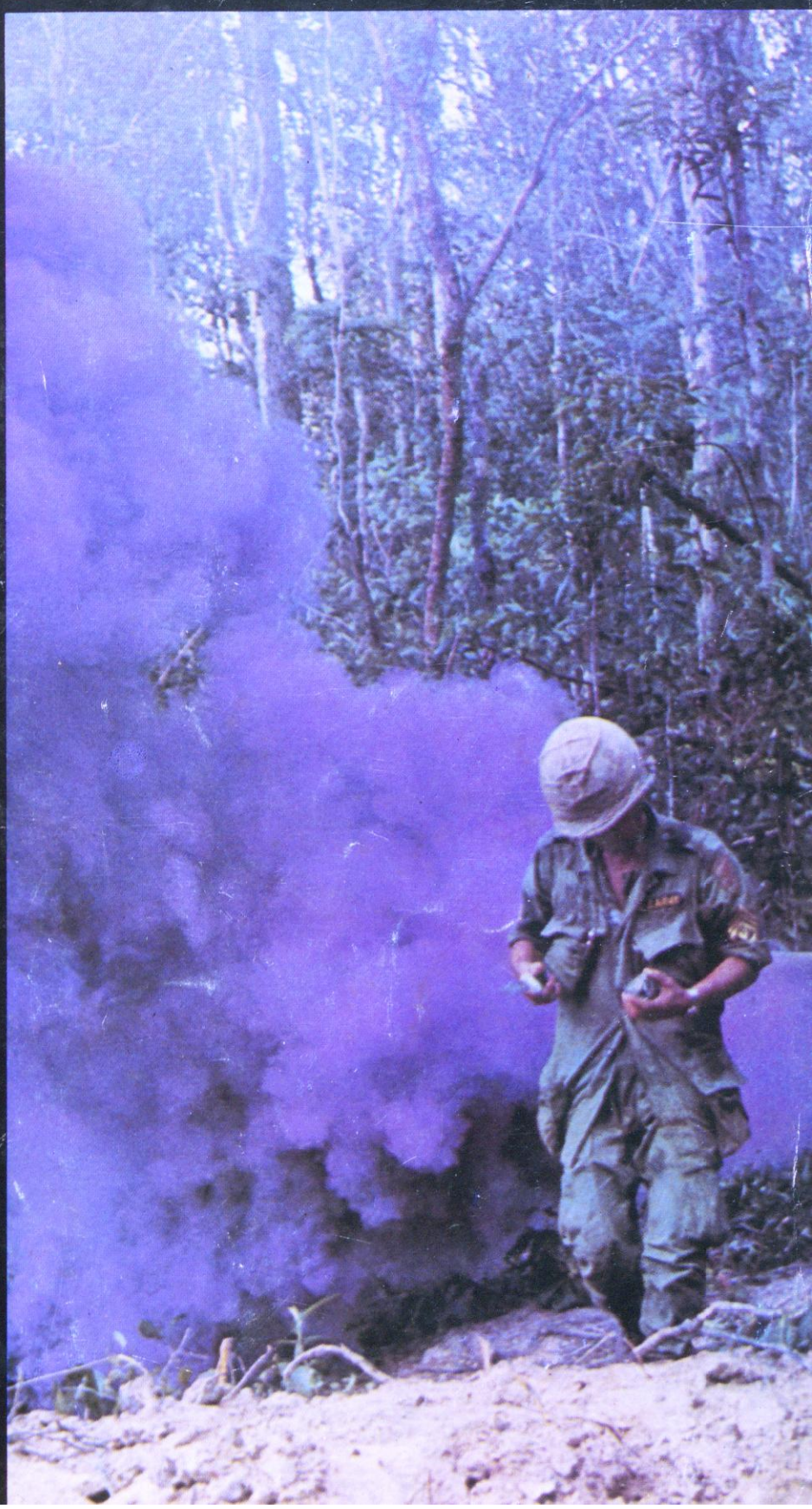
Holly 67
Bob Hope

Vietnam Battles
Part Four

Operation
Manhattan

Birmingham
City With A Heart

Civic Action
Big Red One Style



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"Because of what you and our allies are doing here, men through Asia are beginning to feel confident that the future belongs to them—to those who love peace."

President Lyndon B. Johnson
Cam Ranh Bay, 23 December 1967

IN WAR ZONE C soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, off-load from helicopters on 30 Mar 1966. Two days later the "Blue Spaders" together with the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, dealt the 271st VC Regiment a crushing defeat at Ap Gu.

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GEN - John H. Hay INFORMATION officer 1st. INF DIV - IN Vietnam July. 1965 - April 67 Vol I

DANGER forward

Volume Two, Number One—February 1968

The Magazine Of The Big Red One, Vietnam

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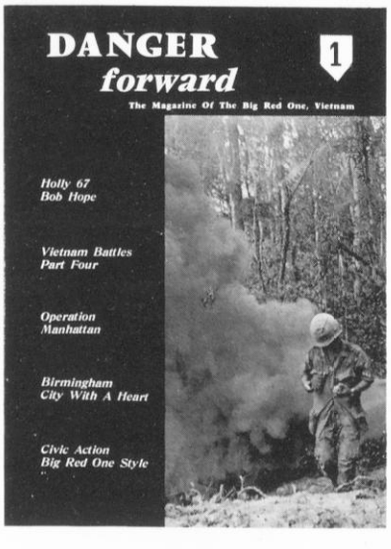

This issue of DANGER FORWARD features the Bob Hope Christmas Show of 1967, Part Two of Operation JUNCTION CITY (Vietnam Battles 19 and 20), narratives of two more significant BIG RED ONE operations, MANHATTAN and BILLINGS (Vietnam Battles 21 and 22), the City of Birmingham's adoption of the Division and an article on that unique civic action program, the "Hamlet Festival."

Richard W. Flanagan
Editor

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Smoke grenades are used to mark the flanks of a patrol during air-strikes. Photograph by SP4 Jerry White, 121st Signal Battalion.

DANGER FORWARD, an authorized publication of the US Army, provides timely, authoritative information of professional interest on combat operations, revolutionary development programs and combat support procedures of the First Infantry Division, Vietnam. It serves as a means of expression for views of the Commanding General and achieves command information objectives of the Department of the Army and the First Infantry Division. Material of interest to Division members and the Army in general is invited and should be mailed to: Editor, DANGER FORWARD, Information Office, First Infantry Division, APO 96345. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Department of the Army. The magazine is printed at Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Tokyo. The title DANGER FORWARD is copyrighted by the Society of the First Division.

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THE OVERSEAS VISITS OF BOB HOPE are synonymous with Christmas cheer for thousands of servicemen and women around the world. In fact, the famous entertainer's Christmas shows have become a tradition among the generations of US fighting men since World War II. Last year's show was no exception, as Bob and his troupe brought both laughter and tears to the eyes of more than 8,000 First Infantry Division men at Lai Khe. Code-named Operation HOLLY, the show also featured film star Raquel Welch, singer Barbara McNair, singer Phil Crosby, Miss World-Madeleine Hartog Bel of Peru, singer-dancer Elaine Dunn, Broadway columnist Earl Wilson and Les Brown and his Band of Renown. The soft strains of "Silent Night" have faded for another year and maybe some of the jokes and skits have been forgotten, but the memories remain—and for these we can only say, "Thanks."

HOLLY 67

BOB HOPE

Photographs by SSG Len Breckler, SGT Vince Cattera, SP4 Paul Lapinski, SP4 George Pawlaczyk and PFC Ronald Hoffman

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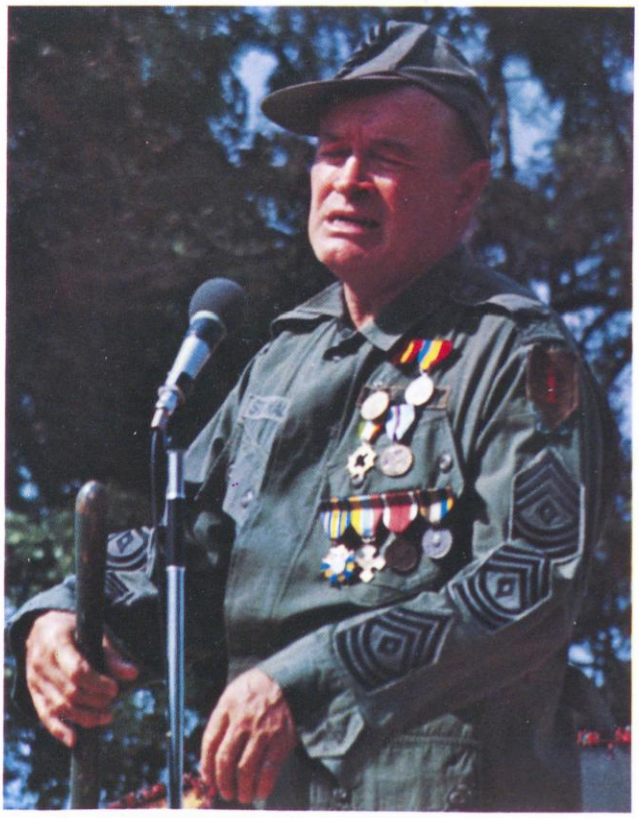
HOGAN

SINGING AND DANCING her way into the hearts of thousands at Lai Khe was talented and versatile Elaine Dunn who, coincidentally, hails from the same hometown as Bob Hope, Cleveland. When the comedian reminded her of this fact, she replied, "Yes, but there's one difference—I can go back!"

MISS WORLD, Madeleine Hartog Bel, was another show-stopper. The 21-year-old Peruvian beauty stands 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs, as she put it, "80 stones." "What a wonderful way to get stoned," Hope conjectured. She also measures a stunning 35–23–35 and, for those who are interested, speaks three languages, English, French and Spanish.



ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of the show was Broadway columnist Earl Wilson's interview with this 11-year Vietnam "veteran." (Below) PHIL CROSBY, on his third Christmas tour of Vietnam, sings a fine rendition of "It's All Right with Me."

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FILM STAR Raquel Welch's appearance in a micro-skirt proved nothing less than sensational, as she did the "frug" and "watusi" with six lucky BIG RED ONE soldiers. (Right) "I'M A WOMAN" sang the dynamic Barbara McNair and no one in the crowd of 8,000 disputed the fact.

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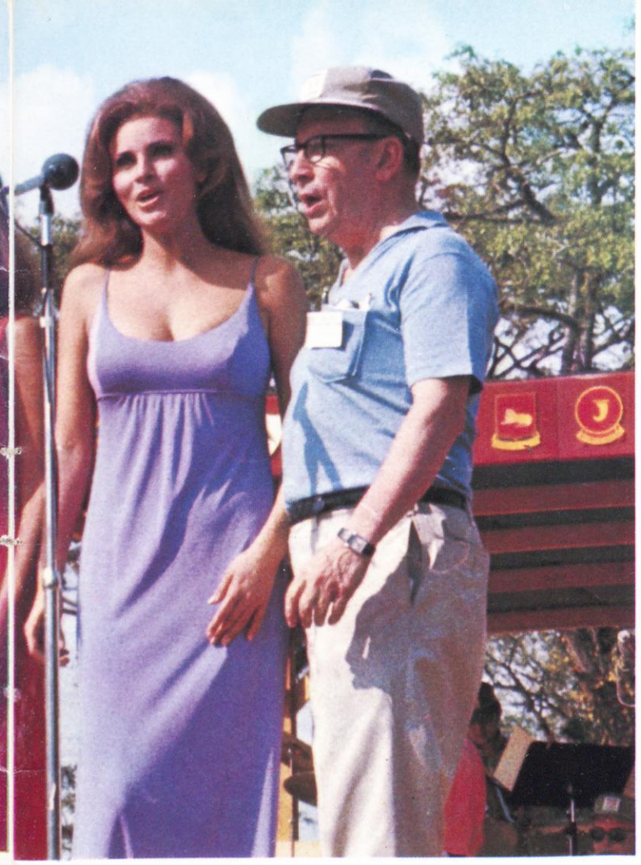
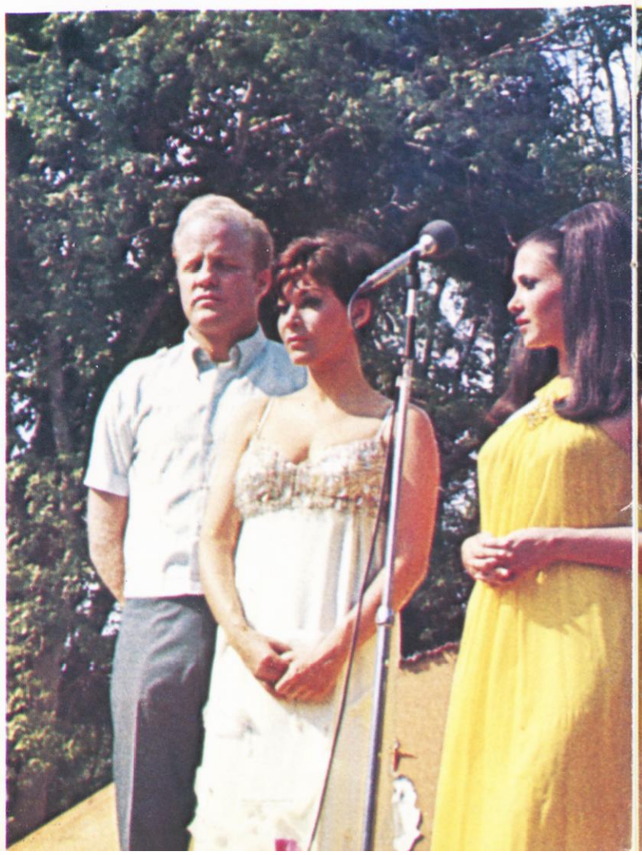


"SILENT NIGHT," led by Barbara McNair, concluded the 1½-hour performance and the moving carol brought tears to the eyes of soldier and entertainer alike.

THE ENTIRE TROUPE joined in on "We Love Being Here With You," which echoed the sentiments of everyone in attendance.



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Part Two

JUNCTION CITY

MOVING FORWARD AT AP GU

K Ando

9th Signal Battalion

A TROOP, 3D SQUADRON, 5TH CAVALRY, assisted by airstrikes and Division Artillery, smashed VC attempts to overrun Fire Support Patrol Base 14 on 20 March.

Vietnam Battles—19

Ap Bau Bang II

THE BATTLE OF AP BAU BANG II was the third major action in as many weeks during Operation JUNCTION CITY. It took place on 20 Mar 1967, 30 miles north of Saigon and about 1 mile north of the area where the First Infantry Division had seen its first major Vietnam action on 11 Nov 1965. In that particular battle BIG RED ONE units inflicted a costly defeat on the 271st and 273d Viet Cong Regiments, killing 198 of the enemy.

In the 20 March battle cavalry and artillery units working with the Fighting First took on the same 273d VC Regt again, this time taking an even greater toll of the communists.

A Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry, of the 9th Infantry Division, which had been in Vietnam only a few months, was under the operational control (OPCON) of the BIG RED ONE; its mission was to occupy and secure Fire Support Patrol Base (FSPB) 14 for B Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, another unit OPCON to the Division.

The cavalry troop, commanded by Captain Raoul H. Alcala of San Antonio, moved into FSPB 14 at 1150 hours on 19 March and organized a wagon train-style perimeter defense. The artillery battery, commanded by Captain Duane W. Marion, occupied the center of the perimeter.

Intelligence information indicated that the Ap Bau Bang area was infested with local force guerillas, who had been conducting tax collecting activities and probes against friendly forces. Intelligence also had pinpointed a well-trodden VC trail 1 mile north of Ap Bau Bang. Captain Alcala dispatched his 2d Platoon, under First Lieutenant Harlan E. Short, to the trail with the mission of setting up an ambush there at 1800 hours. He then realigned the perimeter at FSPB 14 with the 1st Platoon, under First Lieutenant Roger A. Festa, Orange, Conn., occupying the western half from 6 to 12 o'clock and the 3d Platoon occupying the eastern half from 12 to 6 o'clock. All units were then placed on a 25 per cent alert status, which was maintained until enemy activity commenced.

At 2250 hours the Viet Cong initiated a probe against FSPB 14 by herding 15 cows wearing bells across National Highway 13 at a point 150 meters northeast of the perimeter. Then at 2300 hours a wheel-mounted .50 caliber heavy machinegun located on the berm of a railroad track 30 meters east of the highway opened fire.

One of A Troop's six M-48A3 tanks, commanded by Specialist 4 Eugene W. Stevens, Santa Clara, Calif., returned the fire with 90mm high explosive rounds and .50 caliber and 7.62mm machineguns. The tank also trained its searchlight on the position and three armored personnel carriers (APCS) blasted away at it. After three minutes the VC machinegun was silent.

During the lull that followed, the 2d Platoon remained at the ambush site and went to a 50 per cent alert; the 1st Platoon stayed at a 100 per cent alert, because it had fewer vehicles; the 3d Platoon went back to a 50 per cent alert; and the Headquarters Platoon, reinforcing the 1st Platoon, went to a 50 per cent alert. Everything appeared to return to normal.

At 0030 hours, 20 March, the Viet Cong began their main assault against FSPB 14 by firing an unknown number of 60mm mortar rounds, rifle grenades, rockets (RPGS) and recoilless rifles. The VC mortar positions were located about 1,500 to 2,000 meters west of Ap Bau Bang in and around an old village that had been destroyed in the past. They were located by radar from the BIG RED ONE's Lai Khe artillery base and countermortar fire was put into effect immediately. During the initial attack two APCS and two tanks were hit, but the tanks remained in the battle, sustaining only minor damage.

After the mortar and anti-tank bombardment small arms and automatic weapons fire hailed into the perimeter and the forward movement of enemy troops was detected.

At approximately 0048 hours VC infantry began a

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ground assault on the perimeter from the southwest, west, southeast and northeast. The assult from the northeast appeared to be only a diversion. The advancing Viet Cong laid down a base of fire and moved steadily forward, keeping close to the ground.

At 0050 hours Captain Alcala reported to his headquarters that he could handle the attack; however, he asked that a ready reaction force be alerted in case it was needed. The squadron commander, Lieutenant Colonel Sidney S. Haszard, Needham, Mass., acknowledged this request and alerted the 1st Platoon of B Troop and the 3d Platoon of C Troop. These platoons were instructed to move to the area and hookup with A Troop.

It now became evident to Colonel Haszard, after noticing the growing size of the enemy offensive, that he should move his command element to the scene of the battle.

Meanwhile, in A Troop's 3d Platoon sector the Viet Cong were moving in quietly under the cover of darkness to mass for an all-out attack on the perimeter. When their movement was detected, a 4.2-inch mortar carrier fired night illumination, effectively lighting up the area and thereby making it possible to see VC troops crossing the road in an east to west direction. At this point, Second Lieutenant Hiram M. Wolfe II, Louisburg, Pa., ordered his platoon to commence firing; the steady volume of fire laid down by the US cavalrymen stopped the Viet Cong.

At 0100 hours Captain Alcala was informed that a flareship with miniguns, called "Spooky 742," and a light fireteam of helicopter gunships were available and would be in position shortly.

The communist troops from the southwest were now hitting the perimeter hard and beginning to swarm over some of the tracks. Other APCs in the sector dusted off the attackers with canister fired at point blank ranges. One of the embattled tracks was then hit by five mortar rounds and burst into flames; however, the wounded crew escaped.

Heading south at top speed on Highway 13, the tracks and tanks of the 2d Platoon put out continuous bursts of .50 caliber machinegun fire to ward off any would-be attackers. When the platoon reached the fire support patrol base, it filled the gaps in the southern half of the perimeter. Almost immediately it was hit with recoilless rifle and grenade fire.

At about 0145 hours, the 1st Platoon of B Troop arrived at the position; on their way down Highway 13, its tanks and tracks had blasted through an ambush hastily set up just north of the perimeter. The 3d Platoon of C Troop, moving up from the south, also ran through a barrage of enemy fire before reaching the perimeter of FSPB 14. Neither cavalry unit suffered any casualties nor damage to its vehicles.

When the B Troop element arrived, it moved around to the south, just outside of the perimeter, shooting as it went. Then the platoon moved inside the perimeter and occupied positions between the A Troop vehicles on the western half of the perimeter from 6 to 12 o'clock. When the C Troop element closed the perimeter, it too swept the area, firing at the stunned Viet Cong while on the move. This platoon moved into positions between the A Troop vehicles on the eastern half of the perimeter from 12 to 6 o'clock.

At this point the perimeter of Fire Support Patrol Base 14 contained B Battery, 7th Bn, 9th Arty; all of A Troop, 3d Sqdn, 5th Cav; the 1st Platoon of B Troop, 3/5 Cav; and the 3d Platoon of C Troop, 3/5 Cav. As this was a large amount of armor for the size of the perimeter, Captain Alcala decided to expand the position. The armored force all around the perimeter counterattacked at about 0220 hours to regain the 40 meters that originally had been lost.

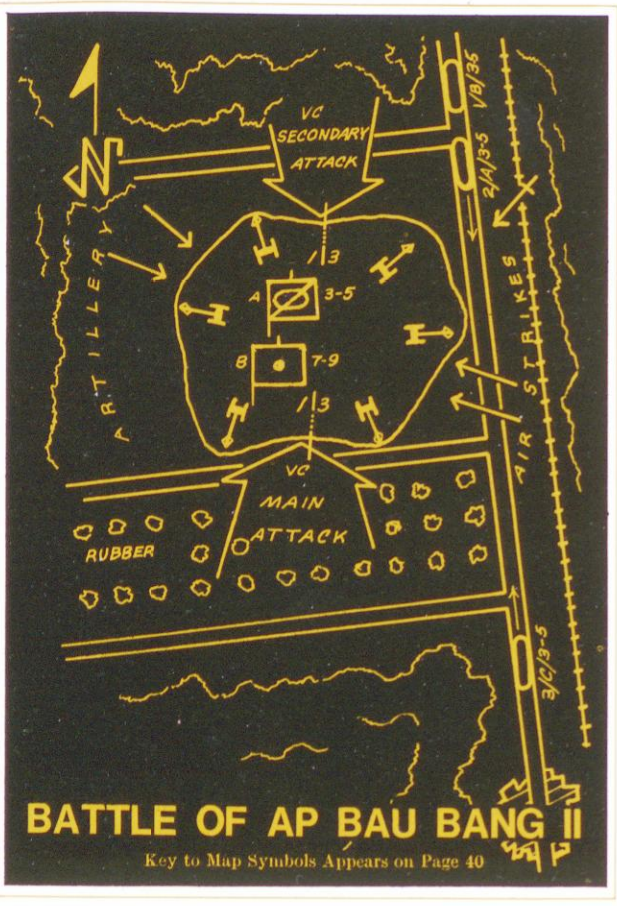
At that time Colonel Haszard, in an M-113 armored personnel carrier and followed by another APC, moved up Highway 13 and drove into the heaviest part of the VC attack, where a seal of US artillery fire had been placed. As the squadron commander's track came within sight of the perimeter, the vehicle was struck by a recoilless rifle round, which knocked out the engine and killed the right gunner; two minutes earlier Colonel Haszard had been acting as right gunner.

Captain Alcala, upon seeing the direct hit, sent a tank forward to assist in the recovery of the damaged M-113. When Colonel Haszard dismounted his track, there were Viet Cong in the immediate area whom he had to ward off before he could hook his vehicle to the tow line.

By the time the squadron commander got his command track and group into the perimeter, the fighting to the south had increased in intensity. Several tanks received hits from a recoilless rifle, but they were able to return the fire and knock out the position.

At about 0300 hours the Viet Cong launched another attack on the southern sector of the perimeter in an apparent attempt to recover bodies. The enemy soldiers attacked in a line of skirmishers, but immediately behind them were other troops using ropes and wires with hooks to recover the bodies on the battlefield. The attacking force got almost as close as the other assaults before being stopped about 15 meters in front of the perimeter.

During this time F-100 jets and "dragon ships" rained death and destruction on the attackers. The initial airstrikes were from south to north on the east side of Highway 13. Subsequently, they hit the rubber tree line to the south of the perimeter. These latter strikes actually broke up the VC attack and caused the enemy to fall



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SSG Len Breckler

DURING THE BATTLE Chief Warrant Officer Max L. Johnson and First Lieutenant Roy Yamashita, members of the 1st Lift Platoon (Champagne Flight), A Company, 1st Aviation Battalion, daringly piloted their chopper through the thick of the fighting to carry in supplies and evacuate the wounded at FSPB 14.

back to the southeast, the only good route of withdrawal. In other places along the 360-degree perimeter, the Viet Cong could not easily fall back because of the large amount of open space they had to cross. As a result, those of the enemy who tried to withdraw to the west, north and northeast were cut down by the large volume of fire directed at them.

Throughout the battle, resupply and "dust off" missions were made by the BIG RED ONE operations center under the direction of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Lieutenant Colonel Paul F. Gorman, Annandale, Va. Just prior to 0445 hours these missions were completed.

At 0500 hours the Viet Cong began to launch their final attack from the south and southeast. Airstrikes came in from east and west in the area south and southeast of the perimeter, while artillery fire was shifted to fall to the north of the perimeter to cover possible escape routes northeast of Highway 13 along the railroad track, the stream bed and the trail.

The Viet Cong had assembled in the rubber trees for this final assault, but assisted by flares and tank searchlights shining in the area, US commanders could see the attack mounting. The airstrikes were then brought back into the area of the rubber trees and as the Viet Cong got up to make their assault, they were met by the F-100s. Almost immediately the VC small arms fire ceased and the battle was left to artillery fire and airstrikes, with the final strike being placed on the withdrawing enemy at 0700 hours.

In support of the US forces at Fire Support Patrol Base 14 was an overwhelming amount of artillery and airpower. There was a total of 29 sorties flown, dropping 25 tons of ordnance on the Viet Cong. The artillery fired 2,148 rounds of 105mm, 688 rounds of 155mm, 39 rounds of 175mm and 69 rounds of 8-inch howitzer ammunition.

During the BATTLE OF AP BAU BANG II, the enemy lost 227 killed. Friendly losses for the action were three killed and 63 wounded.

LTC Haszard

CPT Alcala

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Vietnam Battles—20
Ap Gu

On 21 March, one day after the Battle of Ap Bau Bang II, units of the Fourth Infantry Division met the 272d Viet Cong Regiment in the jungles of War Zone C and killed 600 of the enemy. All that remained intact now within the 9th vc Division was the 271st Regt and that hard-core unit was soon to be completely mauled by the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, during a battle which would take place 25 miles north of Tay Ninh City near the village of Ap Gu.

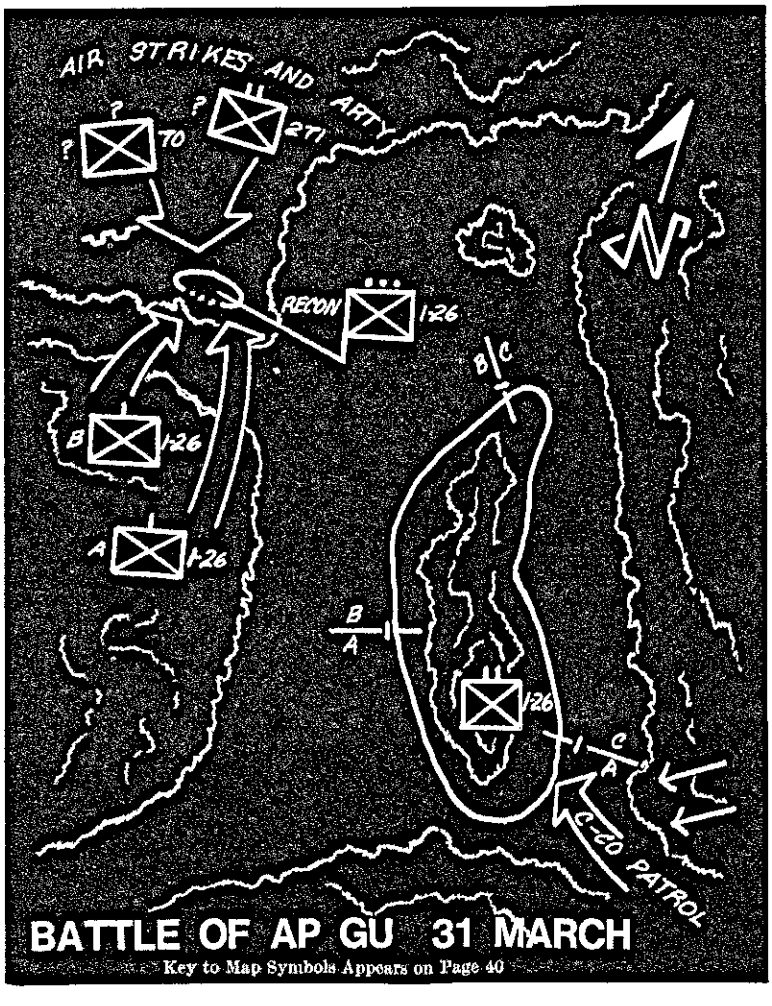
On 26 March the 1st Bn, 26th Inf, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander M. Haig, Arlington, Va., was alerted to prepare for an air assault at 1130 hours on 30 March into a landing zone (LZ) called *George*. Intelligence had indicated that there were enemy base-camps and fortifications in the area (AO *Sioux*) in which LZ *George* was located. Once the "Blue Spaders" landed, they were to secure the LZ for the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, and then conduct search and destroy operations in their assigned sector of AO *Sioux*.

On 30 March poor weather caused delays in the preparation of the LZ, which resulted in a corresponding two-hour delay in the execution of the 1/26 Inf's air assault. It was not until 1330 hours that elements of B and C Companies in 25 UH1D helicopters landed at LZ *George*. The remainder of the battalion closed by 1415 hours.

Upon landing, the battalion sent out cloverleaf patrols to seek out the Viet Cong. The patrols revealed fortified vc positions in and around LZ *George;* however, there was no contact during these periods. That night the unit organized its night defensive position (NDP) in the vicinity of the landing zone. Fighting positions were dug, listening posts (LPS) established and ambush patrols sent out, but no significant contacts occurred.

The next day at 0930 hours the 1st Bn, 2d Inf, air-landed in LZ *George* without incident, while B Company, 1/26 Inf, secured the woods to the west of the landing zone. Upon landing, the 1/2 Inf moved to the secured area. The 1/26 Inf then began to conduct search and destroy operations in the woods surrounding LZ *George*. A Company moved out to the south, C Company to the east and the Reconnaissance Platoon to the north, while B Company remained in reserve manning the battalion perimeter at the LZ.

At about noon the Recon Platoon moved to the north to reconnoiter the woods across the clearing from the perimeter. Approximately 55 minutes later the platoon leader reported receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and grenades. The platoon instinctively returned the fire, organized a defensive position and called for airstrikes and artillery support.



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Battle of Ap Gu Photographs by SP4 Don Tallman

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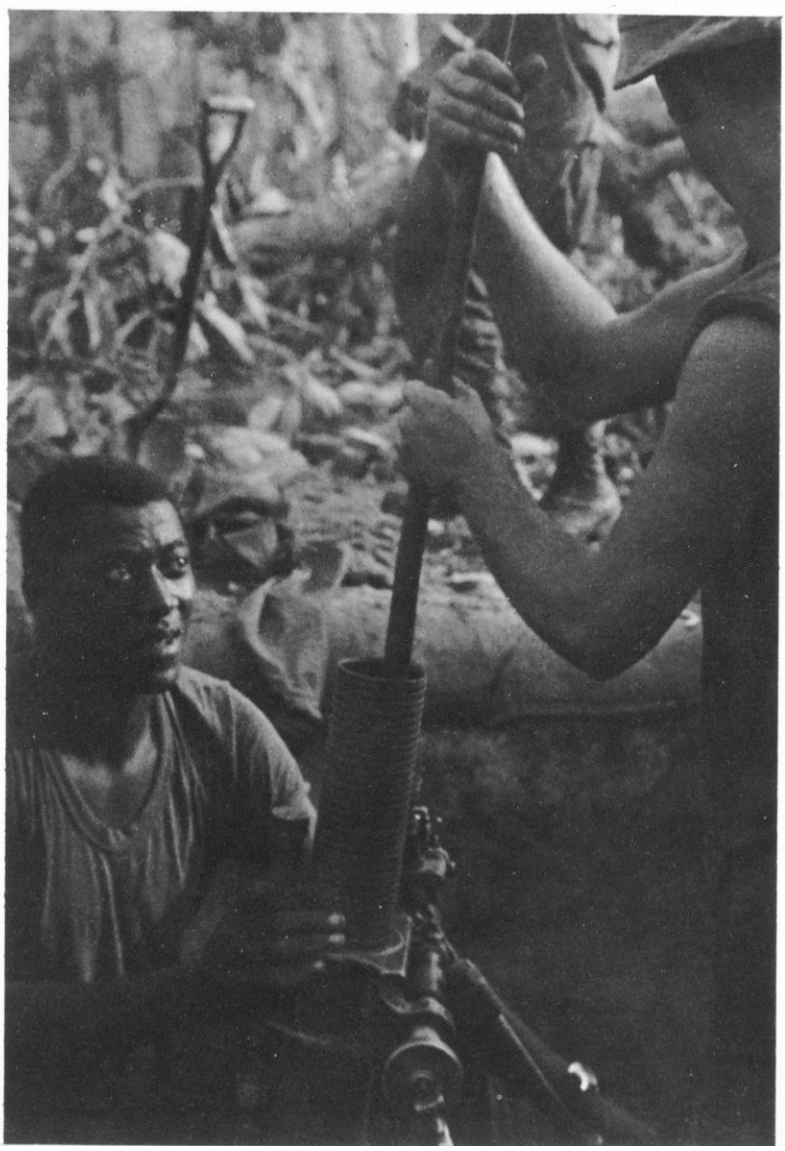

▲ *PRIOR TO AP GU men of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, begin landing in LZ George.*

◀ *A MORTAR CREW cleans out its 81mm mortar during a lull in the BATTLE OF AP GU.*

▼ *ALERT to possible enemy activity around his unit's night defensive position is this soldier of the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry. "The Black Scarves" air-assaulted into the Ap Gu area on 31 March and took part in the exploitation phase of the battle the next day.*

B Company was immediately committed to assist in the extraction of the embattled platoon, while A and C Companies were recalled from their patrols to the battalion perimeter for possible commitment. During this time the airstrikes and artillery were concentrated on the VC force located to the east along the northern woodline.

As B Company moved in, it began receiving heavy .50 caliber machinegun fire, rockets (RPGS), claymores, mortars and 57mm recoilless rifle fire, indicating the presence of a large main force VC unit. A Company was then committed to contain the enemy attack on B Company and the Recon Platoon. This added firepower together with artillery and airstrikes suppressed the assault and the US troops moved back to their perimeter, having killed 28 Viet Cong.

At 1555 hours the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, minus C Company, began landing in LZ *George* to the west and northwest of the 1/26 Inf. Once established within their defensive positions, both battalions made contingency plans in case they should be attacked. They also improved their defensive positions, established LPS and sent out ambush patrols. During the night harassment and interdiction artillery and mortar fires were placed into the area around the perimeter.

From midnight until 0400 hours there was no significant contact. Listening Posts to the north, east and south reported some movement to their front. Mortar fires were placed in those areas; however, it was thought that the noise might have been the rustle of bamboo from the wind or animals moving.

At 0455 hours a mortar round landed in front of the 1st Bn, 16th Inf(-) perimeter. Colonel Haig interpreted this to be a registration round for a VC mortar attack. He immediately ordered all of his companies to a full alert posture and directed them to take cover and be prepared for an attack. Colonel Haig also recommended that the 1/16 Inf(-), under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rufus C. Lazzell, do likewise. The "Rangers" concurred in the recommendation and prepared also for the attack.

The 1/26 Inf immediately requested artillery fires at 0455 hours, but the maximum allocation of support was delayed due to a well coordinated, simultaneous VC attack on Fire Support Patrol Base *Charlie* and the 1/2 Inf NDP, two kilometers southwest of LZ *George*.

Starting at 0500 hours several hundred rounds of 60mm, 82mm and unconfirmed 120mm mortar ammunition were fired on the northern sectors of the two battalions from a position located about 1,000 meters northeast of the 1/26 Inf perimeter. The mortars were so close that the BIG RED ONE troops could hear the sound of the rounds leaving the tubes. So many mortars were firing at once that the noise they made sounded like loud, heavy machineguns. However, because of the early warning, only 12 men were wounded.

The heavy mortar attack ended at 0515 hours. During this time flareships, a light fireteam and forward air controllers were immediately requested from and furnished by the 2d Brigade. Seven minutes later the Viet Cong launched a ground attack against the perimeter from the northeast.

At the start of the enemy attack the listening posts were given permission to withdraw. Following immediately behind the LPS, the Viet Cong moved toward the 1/26 Inf positions. VC claymore mines, RPGS, M-79 grenade launchers and automatic weapons were fired at both B and C Companies of the 1/26 Inf, and A Company and the Recon Platoon of the 1/16 Inf(-).

At 0614 hours the Viet Cong began their main attack. Supported by .50 caliber machinegun fire, RPGS and mortars, they were able to mass their forces and affect a penetration 40 meters deep and 100 meters wide into the C Company, 1/26 Inf, portion of the perimeter.

The C Company Commander, Captain Brian H. Cundiff, Cranden, Wis., unmindful of the intense enemy fire, moved among his men and mustered an effective defense which held the shoulders of the penetration. During this time he also killed six of the attacking enemy in hand-to-hand combat. Although wounded three times, he continued to fight and rally his force. Refusing medical aid, the captain then called for artillery support and airstrikes.

At 0632 hours the 1/26 Inf Recon Platoon was moved into a blocking position behind C Company, which together with its sister company, Bravo, was fighting to

LTC Haig

CPT Cundiff

ADVANCING on elements of the elite 271st VC Regiment are troops from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry.

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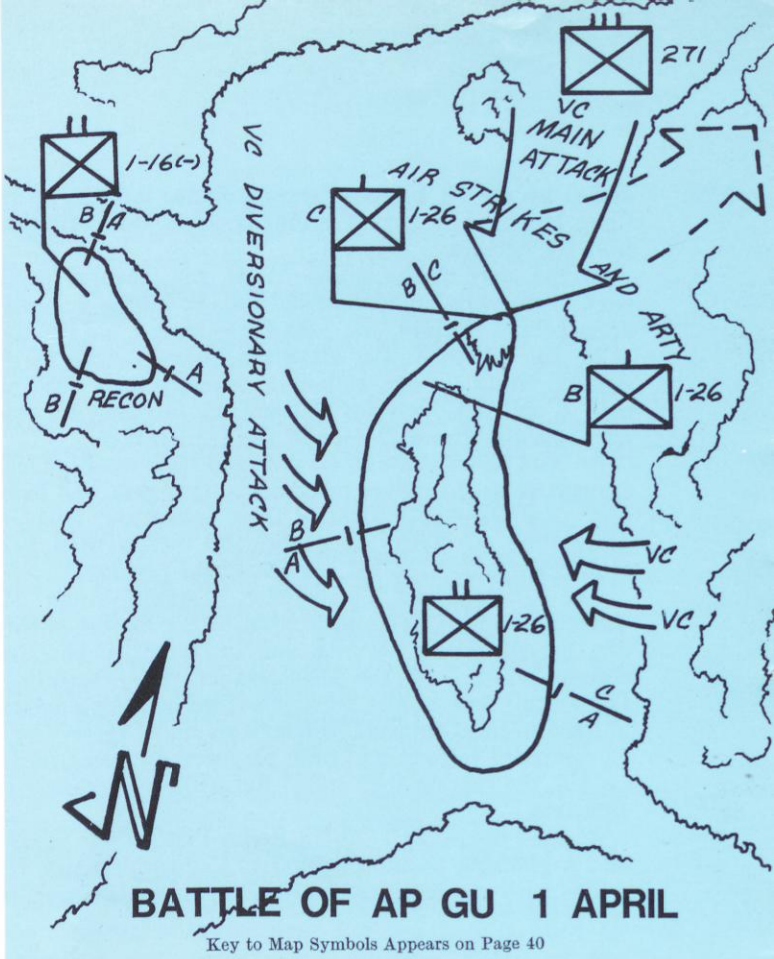
reestablish the perimeter. Slowly, but surely, the main vc attack began to falter under the heavy volume of small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and artillery fire being brought to bear on the enemy and secondary attacks were launched from the east and the north. At this point the full brunt of US firepower began to have a telling effect on the insurgents—light and heavy fire-teams were firing rockets and miniguns on the northeast woodline; artillery was massing along the east flank and, in depth, to the east; and US Air Force jets were striking within 20 meters of the Big Red One positions—littering the entire area on both sides of the perimeter with their dead.

Captain Cundiff then led elements of C Company, reinforced by the 1st Platoon of B Company, in a massive counterattack which pushed the remaining Viet Cong back into the deadly artillery barrages and airstrikes.

Division Artillery units fired some 15,000 rounds into the battle area, while US Air Force jet fighter-bombers logged 133 sorties in support of the ground action.

By 0808 hours the positions were regained and the perimeter restored. For his gallantry, Captain Cundiff was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. There were many, many others, too numerous to mention here, who performed with the same conspicious heroism during this battle. These men comprised a wide range of ranks and military occupational specialties, with each individual playing a vital role in the resounding victory. In all, 48 Silver Star Medals and 121 Bronze Star Medals were awarded.

After the perimeter was restored, sporadic fighting continued, but the Viet Cong were now in full retreat



BATTLE OF AP GU 1 APRIL

Key to Map Symbols Appears on Page 40

AFTER TOSSING A SMOKE GRENADE a scant few yards in front of his position to mark a target, a "Blue Spader" waits for airstrikes to come in on the attacking Viet Cong.

MEDICS give immediate aid to the wounded during the 1 April battle.

THE EXPLOITATION PHASE of the battle was carried out in part by the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, shown here with a dog team in pursuit.

to the northeast. Artillery and airstrikes continued to pound the withdrawing enemy and were shifted to the east and northeast to trap the fleeing remnants of the shattered VC regiment.

The 1/2 Inf and the 1/16 Inf(-) were then passed through the 1/26 Inf perimeter to conduct the exploitation phase of the battle to the east and northeast; however, no significant contacts were made. Meanwhile, the men of the 1/26 Inf began to police the battlefield, evacuate casualties and bury the VC dead. Four hundred ninety-one enemy bodies were found among the defenses of the 1/26 Inf and the 1/16 Inf(-). After sweeps and a reconnaissance of the area had been made, the body count rose to 581. US casualties for the two days were 17 killed and 102 wounded.

The 9th VC Division had been broken, as superior firepower once again paid off for the BIG RED ONE, which suffered only one death for every 61 of the enemy killed.

On 15 April, after 52 days of pounding enemy forces in War Zone C, the 1st Infantry Division ended its participation in Operation JUNCTION CITY. Enemy dead reached an all-time Division high for one operation of 1,781.

Captured enemy equipment and supplies numbered in the hundreds of tons. Two hundred fifty-one small arms were captured, with over 64,000 rounds of ammunition. Through several separate actions involving the overrunning of enemy basecamps, 4,019 grenades, 348 mines and 519 rounds of mortar ammunition were taken. Communication wire amounting to 6.8 miles in length and 6,650 batteries of various types were also captured. Food was one of the biggest items located, with the Division taking over 310 tons of rice, eight tons of salt and more than 10 tons of dried fish. "Charlie's" movement capabilities were slowed as the BIG RED ONE took into custody 127 bicycles and almost 8,000 pairs of sandals. A sewing machine and 761 uniforms of various types were also captured.

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Cambodia

LOC NINH

SONG BE

13

QUAN LOI

1A

AN LOC

4

20

WAR ZONE C

14

Republic of Vietnam

DONG XOAI

13

22

21

13

MINH THANH

SUOI DA

CHON THANH

WAR ZONE D

NUI BA DEN

PHUOC VINH

MICHELIN PLANTATION

TAY NINH

13

DAU TIENG

19

26

LAI KHE

1

BEN SUC

BEN CAT

19

Iron Triangle

1A

DONG NAI RIVER

GO DAU HA

THI TINH RIVER

SAIGON

Cambodia

VAM CO DONG RIVER

CU CHI

8A

PHU LOI

16

PHU CONG

BIEN HOA

1

LONG BINH

1

13

DI AN

RIVER

1

BEAR CAT

9A

THU DUC

TON SON NHUT

SAIGON

15

DONG NAI RIVER

VAM CO TAY RIVER

NHA BE RIVER

5A

Rung Sat Zone

VUNG TAU

China

North Vietnam

HANOI

HAIPHONG

Laos

Hainan

17TH PARALLEL

1954 DEMARCATION LINE

Thailand

QUANG TRI

HUE

DA NANG

CHU LAI

QUANG NGAI

PLEIKU

QUI NHON

Cambodia

Republic of Vietnam

NHA TRANG

DA LAT

TAY NINH

PHAN RANG

PHAN THIET

BIEN HOA

DI AN

SAIGON

VUNG TAU

Gulf of Siam

CA MAU

MOUTHS OF THE MEKONG

South China Sea

GENERAL AREA OF DIVISION OPERATIONS

DANGER *forward* Battle Map

19	AP BAU BANG II 20 Mar 1967	P11
20	AP GU 31 Mar-1 Apr 1967	P14
21	XOM BO I 14 June 1967	P24
22	XOM BO II 17 June 1967	P25

DIVISION INFORMATION OFFICE (PIO)
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION, APO SF 96345

DISTANCE IN MILES

0 5 10 20

ROADS NATIONAL SECONDARY INTERNATL

BOUNDARY (INTERNATIONAL)

AERODROMES (MIL OR CIVIL)

WOODLAND

RUBBER TREES

RICE PADDIES/WASTELAND

SWAMP/MARSH

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One of the Largest Single Caches of Weapons and Ammunition Captured in the War

MANHATTAN

EIGHT DAYS AFTER JUNCTION CITY the BIG RED ONE teamed up once more with the 25th Infantry Division and elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to launch Operation MANHATTAN. Controlled by Headquarters, II Field Force, the new search and destroy operation was mounted in an area extending from the northwestern portion of the Iron Triangle, north to the Michelin Rubber Plantation and from the Saigon River, east to National Highway 13.

Prior intelligence indicated that the Viet Cong had reestablished supply bases in this area to replace those destroyed during Operation CEDAR FALLS (8–26 Jan

SGT Vince Cattera

LEAPING FROM A HELICOPTER and heading for the cover of a woodline are members of the 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, as Operation MANHATTAN begins.

1967). However, there was no evidence that major VC combat units were permanently operating or based here.

The plan of attack was for the 1st Infantry Division to commence the operation by conducting an airmobile assault into the southern half of the area, while the 11th Armd Cav Regt(-), which was OPCON to the Division, conducted a ground assault into the northern half. The BIG RED ONE forces were then to conduct search and destroy operations west to the Saigon River with the 25th Inf Div conducting a similar operation east to the river. Upon the juncture of the two divisions, both would withdraw behind a fire coordination line to permit a River Assault Group force to sweep the waterway between them.

On 23 April the 3d (Iron) Brigade, under the command of Colonel Sidney M. Marks of San Antonio, began Operation MANHATTAN by conducting an air assault with three battalions into two landing zones (LZS). The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William C. Simpson, and the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Edwards, moved into LZ *Joe*, while the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Lewis R. Baumann, landed in LZ *Al*.

In the days that followed, the Division soldiers overran hundreds of bunkers and numerous basecamps in the area, with no determined or organized resistance being encountered. On 3 May a *Hoi Chanh* (former Viet Cong) led A Company, 2d Bn, 18th Inf, to an enemy basecamp approximately 4,000 meters southwest of LZ *Joe*. Here, in an underground concrete storage room, was found one of the largest single caches of weapons and ammunition in the Vietnam War: 220 Mauser rifles, 147 Chinese Communist (CHICOM) carbines, one Browing Automatic Rifle (BAR), one sub-machinegun, 1,500 60mm mortar rounds, 2,000 82mm mortar rounds, over 300,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 300 mines of various types and a number of other items.

By the time Operation MANHATTAN concluded on 11 May, units of the BIG RED ONE had also uncovered 626 tons of rice, 21 tons of salt, 5 rice milling machines, 3 sewing machines, 1,079 uniforms, 63 bicycles and hundreds of other miscellaneous items of supply and equipment. Captured weapons and ammunition totaled 417 small arms and almost 500,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, while mines, grenades and mortar rounds amounted to well over 8,500.

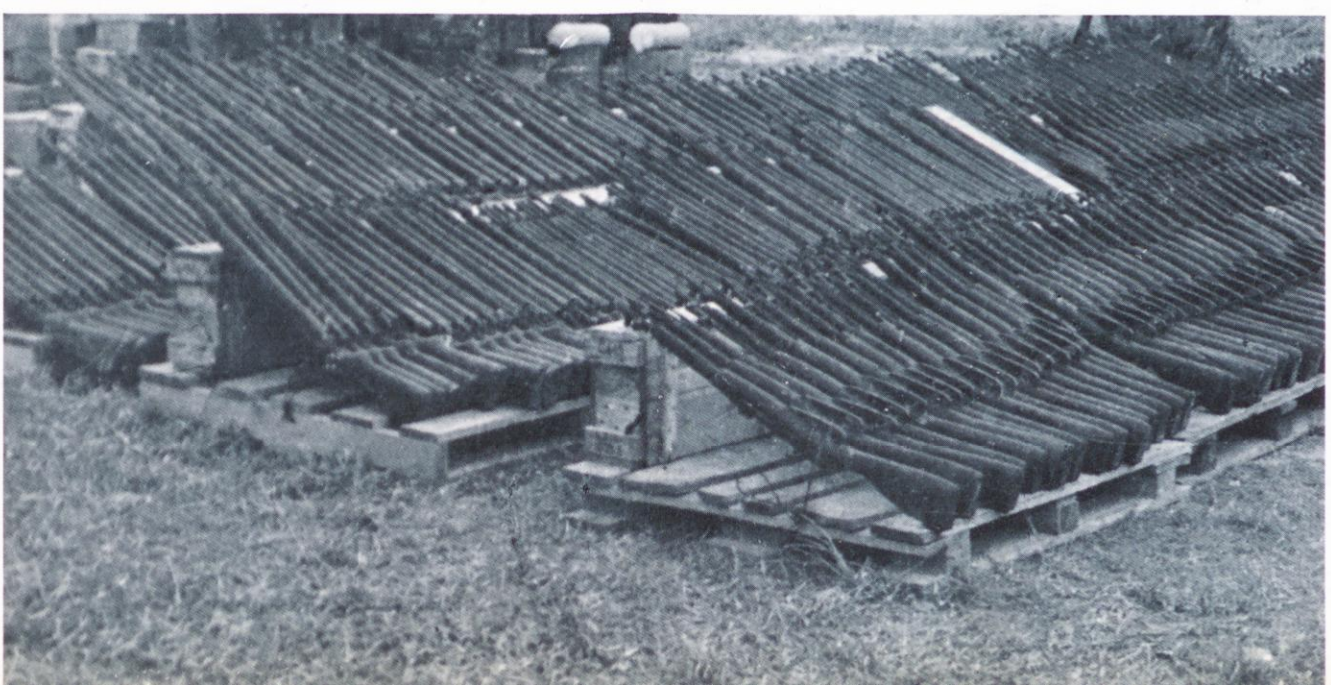
During the 19-day period 123 Viet Cong were killed—a figure which, by comparison with other operations, is not spectacular. What is significant, though, is the amount of weapons and supplies captured, for the damage done to the VC logistical system, coupled with the enemy's losses from Operation CEDAR FALLS, will have a far-reaching effect on his activities in this area.

SP4 Alan Showalter

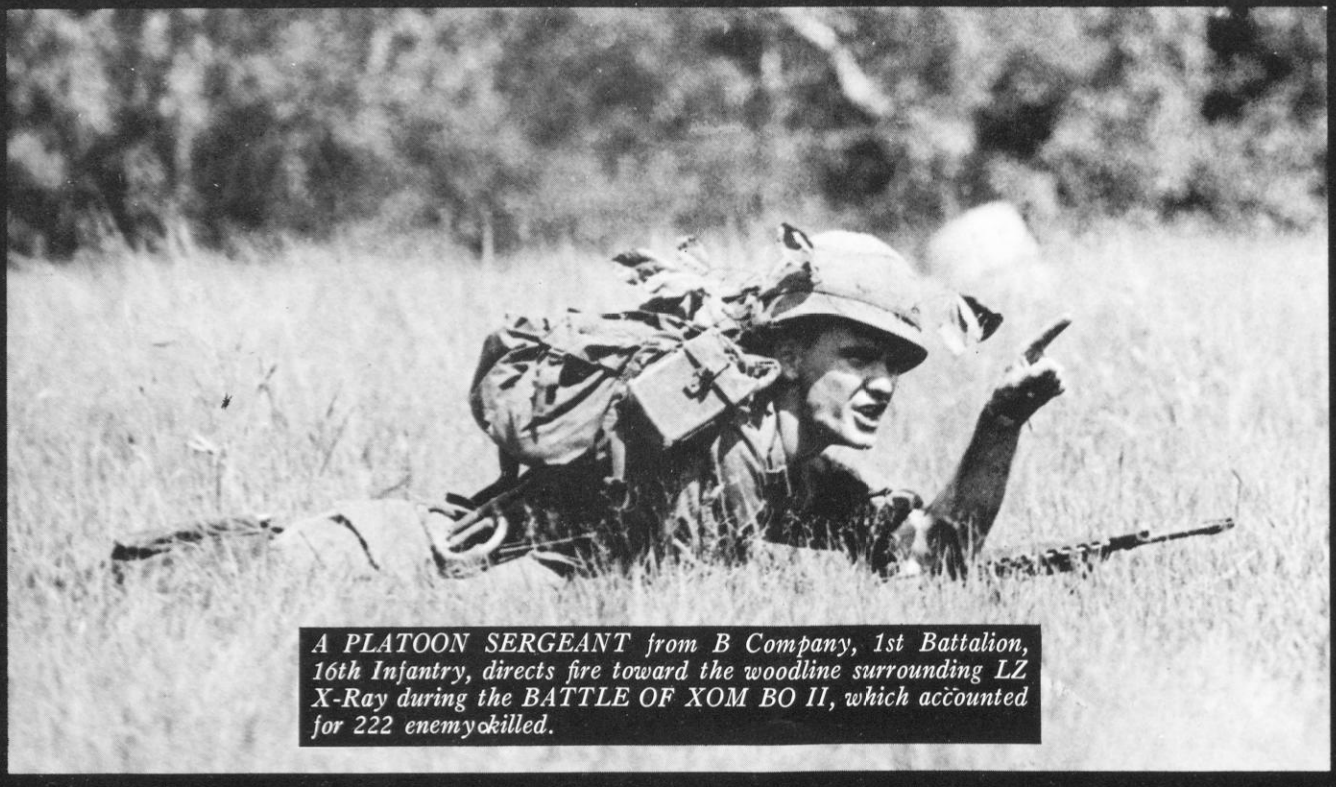
EMPLOYMENT OF TANK-INFANTRY TEAMS in the dense jungles of War Zone C proved highly successful during the 19-day operation.

DISPLAYED AT LAI KHE are some of the 147 CHICOM rifles uncovered by the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, on 3 May. The rifles were part of one of the largest single weapons and ammunition caches captured in the Vietnam War.

SSG Len Breckler



SP4 John Olsen



A PLATOON SERGEANT from B Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, directs fire toward the woodline surrounding LZ X-Ray during the BATTLE OF XOM BO II, which accounted for 222 enemy killed.

Vietnam Battles—21

Xom Bo I

Billings

ON 12 JUNE 1967, the First Infantry Division, under the command of Major General John H. Hay, launched Operation BILLINGS, a multi-brigade search and destroy mission into the dense jungles of War Zone D, 40 miles northeast of Saigon. The specific area of operation was between Quan Loi and Phuoc Vinh, where the Division had not previously operated.

Prior intelligence had indicated that the 271st Viet Cong Regiment was in the area, and on 13 June the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rufus C. Lazzell, Springfield, Va., conducted a heliborne assault into a landing zone (LZ) called *Rufe* The "Rangers" secured the LZ for the landing of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, and that night a two-battalion night defensive position (NDP) was established.

The following day, B Company, 1st Bn, 16th Inf, commanded by Captain Donald S. Ulm of Seattle, moved out from the LZ and began to conduct cloverleaf patrolling. The 2d Platoon was leading, as the company moved into an area that had been partially cleared 48 hours before by B-52 strikes. The terrain encountered was a variation of thick bamboo and triple canopy jungle with trees reaching as high as 200 feet.

At 1355 hours, after going 150 to 200 meters, the lead squad of the 2d Platoon came out of the thick bamboo to a clearing made by three large bomb craters. The squad maneuvered around the craters and was approaching the woodline on the far side when Viet Cong, not visible just inside the woodline in front of the squad, opened fire with automatic weapons.

The squad immediately dropped into the bomb craters, while the rest of the 2d Platoon moved forward to extend the element and develop the situation. Meanwhile, the company forward observer reported the contact and requested artillery, which was already firing marching fire for the unit prior to the contact. During this time some of the men of the lead squad's left fireteam remained pinned down in the craters.

After about 30 minutes, some of the Viet Cong moved to the right flank, and by 1419 hours heavy automatic weapons fire was coming from the right (north) and front (west). Sniper fire began coming also from the left flank.

In the meantime, Captain Ulm had deployed the remainder of his company in a perimeter inside the woodline and was moving to the point of heaviest contact. Ignoring the intense volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire, he moved from position to position encouraging his men and insuring that they were adequately supplied with ammunition. For his actions, Captain Ulm was awarded his first Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal with V (Valor) device.

Artillery fire arrived three to four minutes after the initial contact in the woodline in front of the craters. After about 15 minutes, the artillery was moved out beyond the VC positions and the first of six airstrikes came in at 1501 hours in the area where the artillery fire had been directed.

Staff Sergeant John D. Dmellow of the 2d Platoon, who had moved up into one of the craters, noticed that the Viet Cong were trying to flank the craters on the right. He ordered machinegun fire into the woodline on his right and immediately after that the enemy on the

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RRMRC Digital Archives

right stopped temporarily. However, due to the still intense enemy fire, the men could not move from the craters.

The fire eventually died down after 30 minutes and the 2d Platoon's lead squad was able to get out of the craters and move back to the woodline behind them, completing the tie-in of the company perimeter. When the perimeter was formed, air and artillery was brought in over the craters to within 20 meters of the BIG RED ONE positions.

Alternating in the same area, the airstrikes and artillery fire had an immediate and devastating effect on the enemy. Whenever an airstrike came in, artillery fire was moved farther to the west behind the VC positions. A total of 613 rounds of 155mm and approximately 5,022 rounds of 105mm artillery supported the contact from 1355 hours to 2330 hours. Light fireteams from the 173d Aviation Company, 11th Aviation Battalion; the 1st Aviation Battalion; and D Troop (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, also provided support.

By approximately 1630 hours only sniper fire from a long distance was being received in the company's perimeter. The BATTLE OF XOM BO I had cost the 271st VC Regt 60 men killed. US losses were only six killed and 16 wounded.

Three days later, in a bean-shaped LZ called *X-Ray,* units of the BIG RED ONE inflicted another costly defeat on the 271st Regt. The brunt of the fiercely fought engagement, known as the Battle of Xom Bo II, was carried by the 1/16 Inf and the 2d Bn, 28th Inf, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Jerry S. Edwards.

Vietnam Battles—22
Xom Bo II

ON 17 JUNE interrogation of a captured Viet Cong revealed that four companies of the 271st VC Regiment had prepared an ambush site around LZ *X-Ray* the previous day. Based on this intelligence information, BIG RED ONE strategists changed plans and decided to storm the landing zone by foot instead of by air.

At 0800 hours the first march unit consisting of A and B companies of the 1/16 Inf, the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 1/16 Inf and B Company of the 2/28 Inf departed LZ *Rufe* for *X-Ray,* 1½ miles north.

Upon their arrival at the LZ, the 1/16 Inf units were to defend the eastern portion of the perimeter, with B Company, 2/28 Inf, taking the western side. At 1030 hours A Company, 1/16 Inf, arrived at LZ *X-Ray,* as the second march unit, A Company, 2/28 Inf, departed from *Rufe.* To avoid exposing themselves in the clearing, the units began to deploy around it by making their way through the jungle that surrounded the landing zone. Approaching it from the south, A Company, 1/16 Inf, led the battalion's other units around the east side of the LZ, while B Company, 2/28 Inf, moved up the west side.

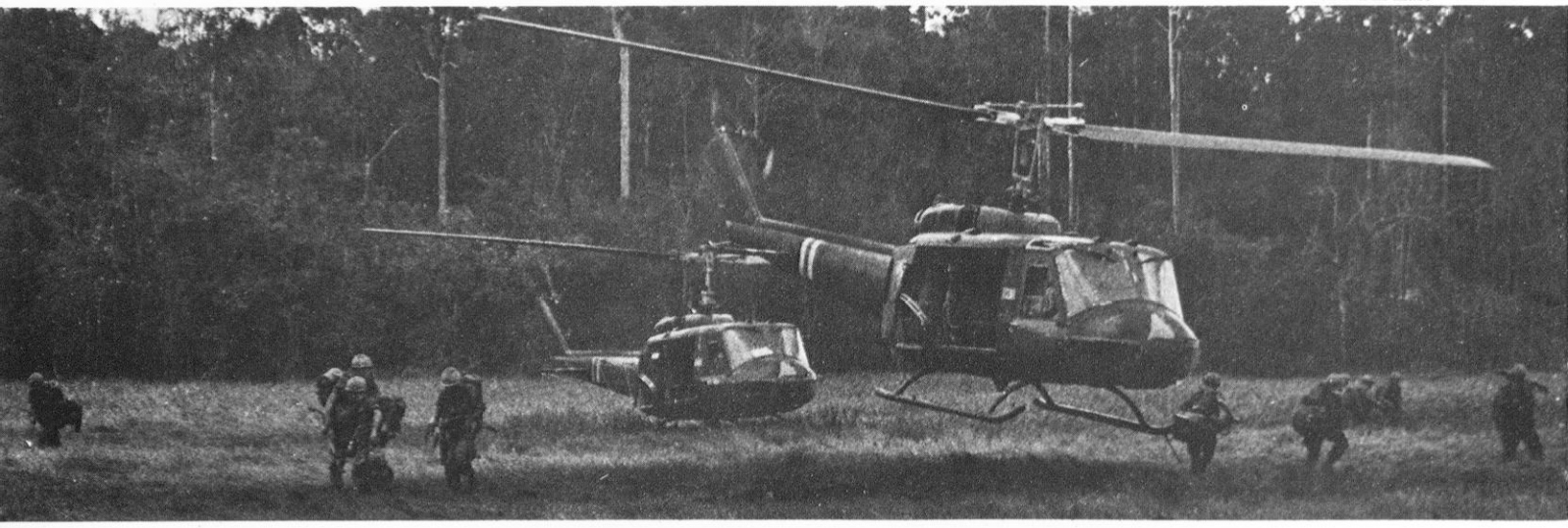
On the eastern side of the perimeter, A Company, 1/16 Inf, deployed in the north; B Company, 1/16 Inf, in the center; and the Recon Platoon in the south, pending the arrival of C Company, 1/16 Inf. To the west, B Company, 2/28 Inf, spread itself thinly over the perimeter. Upon arriving at the landing zone, A Company, 2/28 Inf, was to take over the northwest sector of the perimeter, allowing its sister company to deploy to the southwest in positions that were closer together.

Immediately upon deploying, the units sent out patrols. Before the men could start digging defensive positions or set up claymore mines in front of the perimeter, the patrols had revealed the enemy's presence. Meanwhile, at 1215 hours, A Company, 2/28 Inf, commanded by Captain Donald W. Sawtelle, had entered the LZ and was moving north along the B Company, 2/28 Inf, positions.

CAMOUFLAGED INFANTRYMEN of B Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, wait to board helicopters for the air assault into LZ Rufe.

SP4 John Olsen

SP4 Bill Hart



FOLLOWING THE AIR ASSAULT into LZ Rufe on 13 June, troops from the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, fan out. Four days later the "Black Lions" and the "Rangers" of the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, soundly defeated elements of the 271st VC Regiment in fierce fighting at LZ X-Ray, 1½ miles north of Rufe.

At approximately 1242 hours B Company, 1/16 Inf, began receiving sniper fire, which steadily increased in intensity. It was now apparent that a heavy enemy engagement was imminent. Captain Ulm notified his battalion command post (CP) of the activity and the patrols that had been out rejoined their parent units. He was later to receive his second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal with "V" (Valor) device for his actions during this battle.

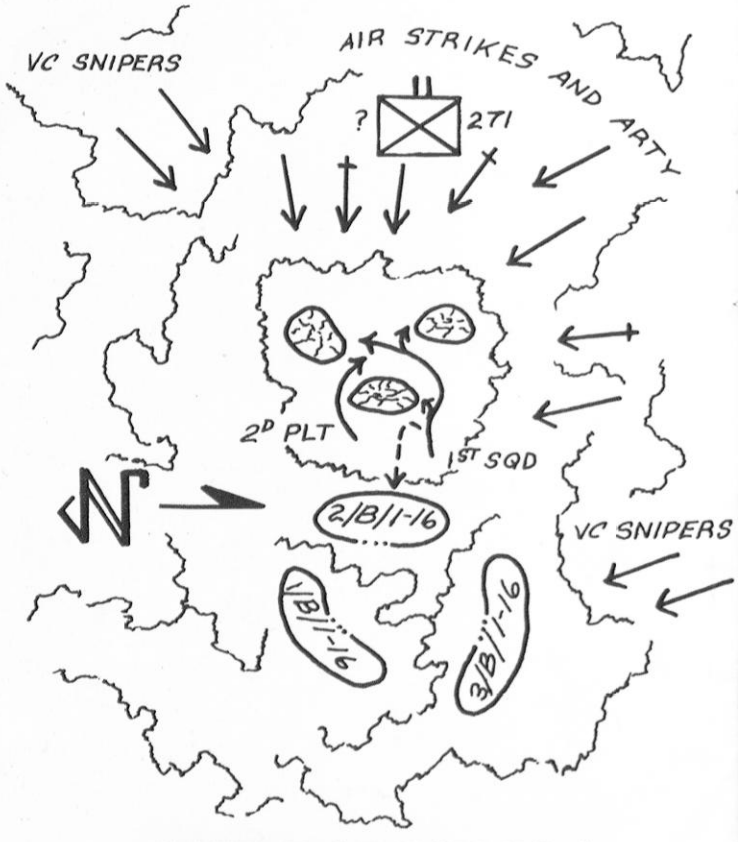
By 1255 hours B Company, 2/28 Inf, and A Company, 1/16 Inf, were receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire from the north, with the heaviest volume being directed against the northernmost platoons of each company.

Artillery and light fireteam gunships were requested and the response was immediate. Tactical air support had also been requested. At 1300 hours, the 105mm howitzers of the 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Daniel, began pounding the Viet Cong. Two gunships provided continuous support to the units in the north.

At 1306 hours three groups of the enemy simultaneously assaulted the left flank of A Company, 1/16 Inf, and the end position on the right flank of B Company, 2/28 Inf. The Viet Cong moved toward the BIG RED ONE positions, throwing hand grenades and firing rockets (RPGS) and automatic weapons. The US troops used anthills and clusters of bamboo for cover.

A RIFLEMAN from C Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, runs for cover as the Viet Cong begin firing on units in LZ Rufe.

SP4 John Olsen



BATTLE OF XOM BO I

Key To Map Symbols Appears on Page 40

Sixty to seventy Viet Cong were able to penetrate a portion of the position manned by the 3d Platoon of A Company, 1/16 Inf. However, the enemy success was short-lived, as artillery fire was adjusted closer to the perimeter. This, together with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire, 81mm mortar fire and support from two gunships firing into the area, stopped the assault nine minutes after it had started.

In the meantime, a group of Viet Cong attacking B Company, 2/28 Inf, had killed the two men in the northernmost position of that company at the start of the assault from the north. Two of the enemy occupied the position and started firing from it. Private First Class Ben Walker, a radio operator, assumed control of his squad when the squad leader was wounded and quickly maneuvered it to the area of the heaviest contact. He then deployed the squad and began directing devastating return fire into the vc soldiers. Continuing to expose himself to intense enemy fire, PFC Walker then moved to position from which he called for and adjusted his unit's mortar fire on the enemy, forcing them to withdraw. For his heroism, Walker was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Another member of the 3d Platoon, Private First Class Dannie D. Smith, occupied a position next to the one that had been penetrated and held it throughout most of the engagement. As three Viet Cong approached him, PFC Smith moved behind a small tree and stayed there, throwing hand grenades and firing his M-16 rifle at the enemy. He was later awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" (Valor) device for his actions.

At about 1325 hours, a 60mm mortar barrage was directed against the northern elements of A Company,

SP4 Bernard Beaudry

A COMPANY, 2D BATTALION, 28TH INFANTRY, entered the landing zone at 1215 hours and moved north along the positions of its sister company, Bravo. Thirty minutes later the BATTLE OF XOM BO II started.

SP4 David Litz

LTC Lazzell

STARTING TO DEPLOY in the northern sector of the perimeter at LZ X-Ray are the men of A Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry.

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1/16 Inf, and B Company, 2/28 Inf. The barrage consisted of 15 to 20 mortar rounds and ended at 1330 hours. Following this, the Viet Cong launched another assault on A Company, 1/16 Inf.

At the outset, a large part of the massive attack was directed against a position occupied by two riflemen, one of whom was Private First Class Daniel J. Phelps.

A group of 10 Viet Cong spearheaded the assault on Phelps' position and got to within 25 meters of it. Then the two BIG RED ONE infantrymen opened up with their M-16 rifles and after two minutes the 10 attacking insurgents were killed. Even when the soldier who shared this location with him was killed by a sniper round, PFC Phelps continued to man the position throughout the entire battle. For such gallantry, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The A Company, 1/16 Inf, command post had been moved from the center of the company's sector to the area that was being assaulted so that the company commander, Captain William R. Williamson, could have better control of the action and the forward observer could adjust artillery fire close to the area that was being assaulted.

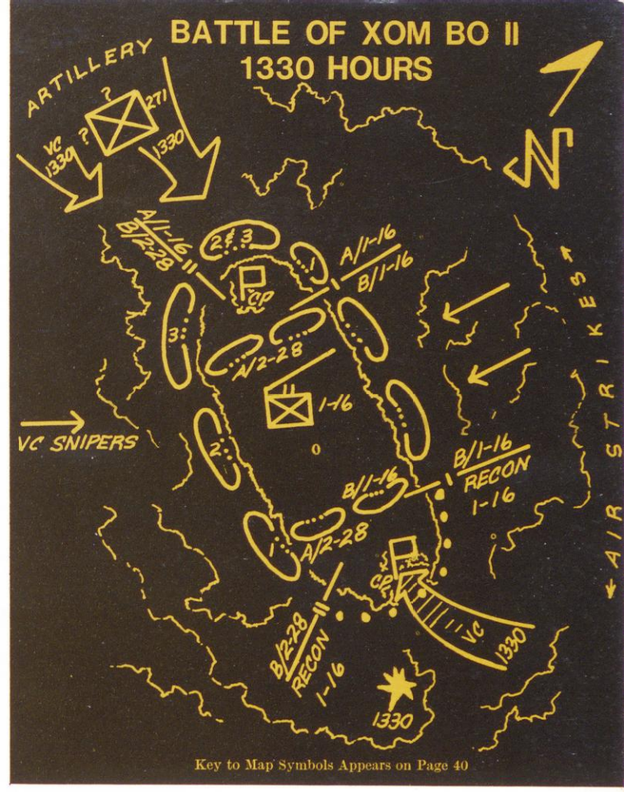
Soon after the attack started, the radio operator reported that he and Captain Williamson had been wounded and that he could see two Viet Cong entering the perimeter. These apparently were the only enemy that broke through on the second assault and they were killed immediately. With a medic attending his wounds, Captain Williamson continued to command his company throughout the battle. He subsequently received the Silver Star Medal for his actions.

The US artillery barrage was fired so close to the perimeter that occasional pieces of shrapnel, traveling at low velocity and harmless, filtered through the umbrella of bamboo, steaming when they hit the wet fatigues of the Division soldiers. It was largely a result of this massive, close-in artillery support that the Viet Cong

SP4 Bernard Beaudry

BIG RED ONE SOLDIERS move to aid their comrades in repelling one of the two massive VC assaults on the perimeter at LZ X-RAY.

CPT Ulm



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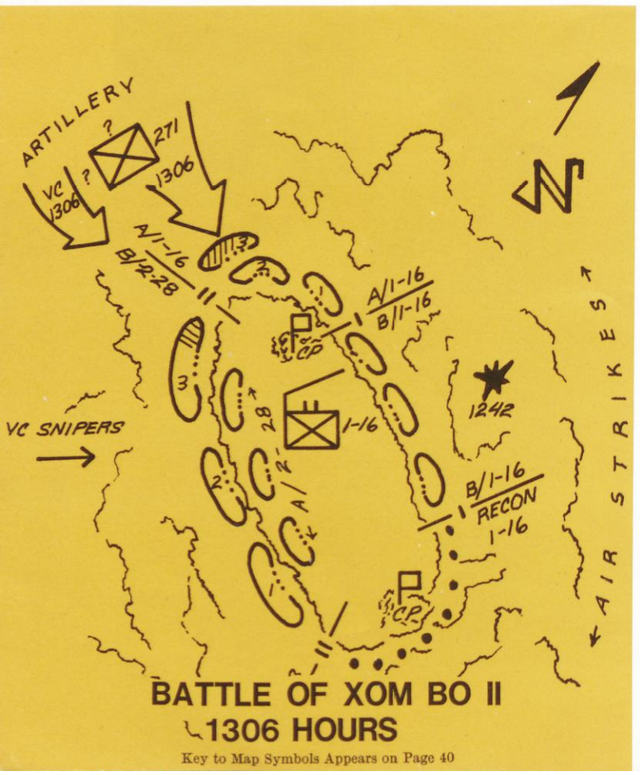


BATTLE OF XOM BO II
1306 HOURS

Key to Map Symbols Appears on Page 40

"DUST OFF" of American casualties from the landing zone began when the firing stopped.

SP4 Bernard Beaudry

were unable to reach the US positions as they had in the first assault. At 1345 hours the enemy suddenly withdrew.

At the same time as the second attack on A Company, 1/16 Inf, other Viet Cong moved in on the right flank of B Company, 2/28 Inf. However, artillery fire once more proved to be a deadly deterrent to any further advance by the enemy on the BIG RED ONE positions at this location.

To the south, and apparently coordinated with the VC attack in the north at 1330 hours, a large group of Viet Cong assaulted the Recon Platoon of the 1/16 Inf. In the fight that followed, the platoon's CP group killed more than 30 of the attacking enemy, with airstrikes providing continuous and effective support. At this time the LZ defensive position was strengthened by the insertion of the 1/18 Inf.

At 1530 hours and again at 1700 hours, the LZ received barrages of 60mm mortar rounds. US counter-mortar fires were employed, and after 1710 hours there was no further enemy activity. The last airstrike was delivered at 1915 hours, making a total of 43 sorties flown in support of the BIG RED ONE troops. A total of 8,250 artillery rounds were fired also in support of the battle.

A search of the battle area turned up 196 enemy bodies plus another 26 found in the surrounding jungle the following day, making the fight for LZ *X-Ray* the biggest engagement of Operation BILLINGS. US soldiers killed in action numbered 35.

Other ground actions in this highly successful Division operation, which ended 26 June, included the capture of four light machineguns, two 5-pound bags of noxious gaspowder (CS), 14 Chinese Communist (CHICOM) grenades and seven machinegun rotary drums. Destroyed were four squad-size basecamps, three company-size basecamps and one battalion-size basecamp. Overrun and destroyed were 278 fighting positions, 338 bunkers, 38 military structures and three 105mm howitzer rounds.

Total Viet Cong killed in action during Operation BILLINGS was 347. US losses were 47 killed and 197 wounded.

BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM'S FAMOUS RED CARPET was rolled out for Sergeant Major William O. Wooldridge during his visit to the Alabama city in 1965.

SOME OF THE 750 persons who attended adoption ceremonies in Birmingham's Municipal Auditorium pass through an Army chow line with well-laden trays.

ON 26 NOV 1965, the City of Birmingham, Alabama, officially adopted the First Infantry Division.

The impetus for this unprecedented deed was a firm belief in the principles for which US fighting men were giving their lives in Vietnam. This gesture also represented a positive approach to the concern and resentment felt by Birmingham's civic leaders over the protests rising at that time against America's presence in the little Southeast Asian country.

The idea of adopting a fighting unit here quickly mushroomed into a city-wide campaign, as Birmingham's citizenry took to its heart all the men who were battling for their country and freedom everywhere in Vietnam.

An adoption steering committee was established and almost from the start the BIG RED ONE was the first choice, based on its then more than 48 years of continuous service to God and Country.

Telephone calls and other messages flew back and forth between Birmingham and the Pentagon and the city and Vietnam.

Lieutenant General (at that time Major General) Jonathan O. Seaman, then division commander, named Sergeant Major William O. Wooldridge, now Sergeant

Photographs Courtesy of Birmingham News/Post-Herald

City With A Heart

Major of the Army, as the Fighting First's representative at the adoption ceremonies.

The ceremonies at an Army chow line luncheon at Birmingham's Municipal Auditorium constituted one of the brightest pages in the history of a city recognized for its patriotic support of its country's causes in war and peace. Seven hundred fifty persons representing organizations eager to know how they could help the BIG RED ONE attended. After the luncheon Sergeant Major Wooldridge met with these representatives who wanted to adopt units of the division and support them while they are fighting in Vietnam.

Groups represented were diverse. They ranged in age from high school to the Birmingham Rotary; in interests, from business and professional clubs to the Birmingham-Jefferson County Wives League.

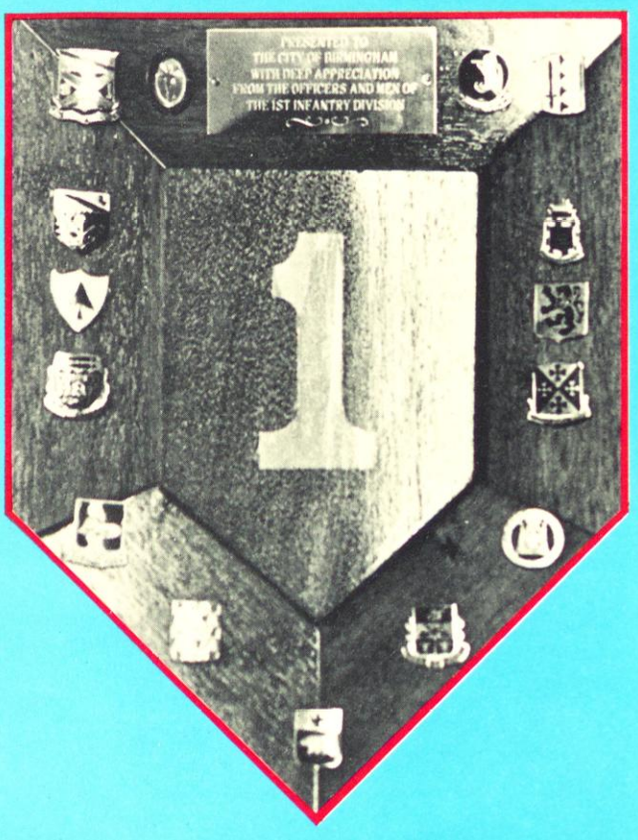
Since the adoption the City of Birmingham's support for its division has continued to be nothing less than a patriotic milestone. So far, 80 units in the BIG RED ONE have been adopted by sponsoring organizations in the Birmingham area, which have pledged or given everything from 20,000 pints of blood to 11 tons of Christmas gifts to the men they are treating as their own.

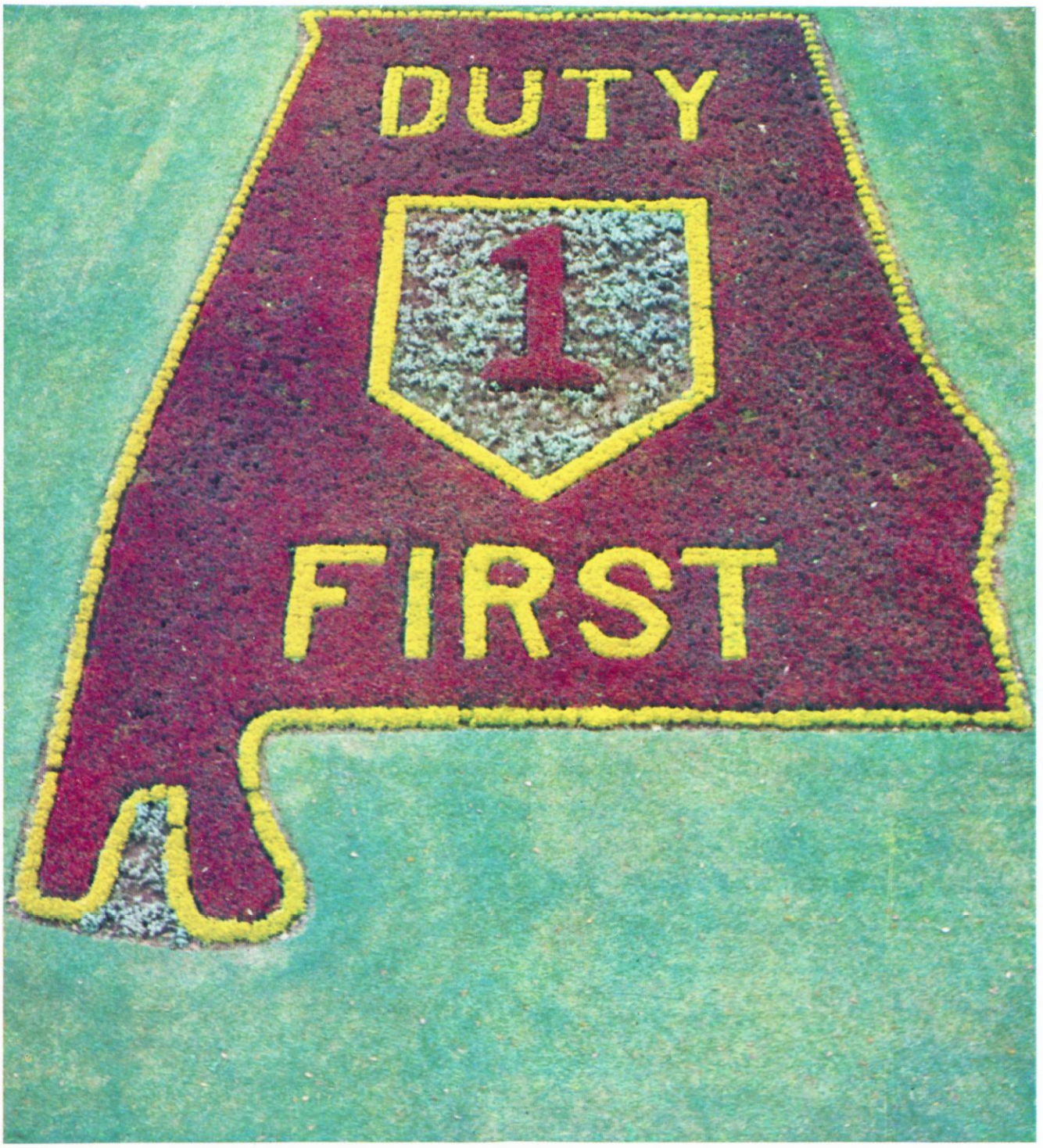
The adoption has been neither casual nor formal. It can be summed up in a single word—Thanks—no better expression in the English language to convey the true relationship existing between a division of 17,000 men and a city of 350,000 people.

CAPTURED VC FLAG that was presented to the city is displayed by SMG Wooldridge. (Below) AT LEGION FIELD in Birmingham he salutes the Stars and Stripes for the Division before 70,000 Alabama-Auburn football fans.

The Ties

That Bind





FLORAL DESIGN in the city's Woodrow Wilson Park is a daily reminder to Birmingham's citizens and visitors that the BIG RED ONE is composed of adopted sons.

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ANOTHER "HAMLET FESTIVAL" is soon to begin, as medical and civic action tents are set up.

Story and Photographs
By SSG Len Breckler

CIVIC ACTION / BIG RED ONE STYLE

EVERYONE IS FAMILIAR with the weaponry being employed in Vietnam to defeat communism—the tanks, the howitzers, the machineguns, the rifles. But freedom's defense here also has another set of weapons in its arsenal—it may be a doctor's stethoscope, a dentist's drill, a bandsman's tuba or a handful of rice. Strange things with which to fight a war, it would seem, but the First Infantry Division uses these latter "weapons" as much as it does the former set.

They are used in an operation which has its roots embedded in a 15th Century Vietnamese legend concerning one Le Loi and his movement to free Vietnam from northern invaders. He organized an army and established a base of operations in his home province of Thanh Hoa near a mountain named Lam Son.

The cooperative effort to win over the Vietnamese people to the side of the Vietnamese government, known first as Operation LAM SON, then LAM SON II, and evolving into LAM SON 67, has always had as an integral part Medical Civic Action Programs (MEDCAPS). The 1st Inf Div expansion of this effort created the "Hamlet Festival," which supplements the MEDCAP with meals, entertainment and the person-to-person extension of compassion.

When elements of the BIG RED ONE's 2d Brigade and 1st Medical Battalion, with security forces from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, military police and supporting infantry units, move into a village or hamlet somewhere in the Division's area of responsibility, they begin preparations for what will turn out to be a long day.

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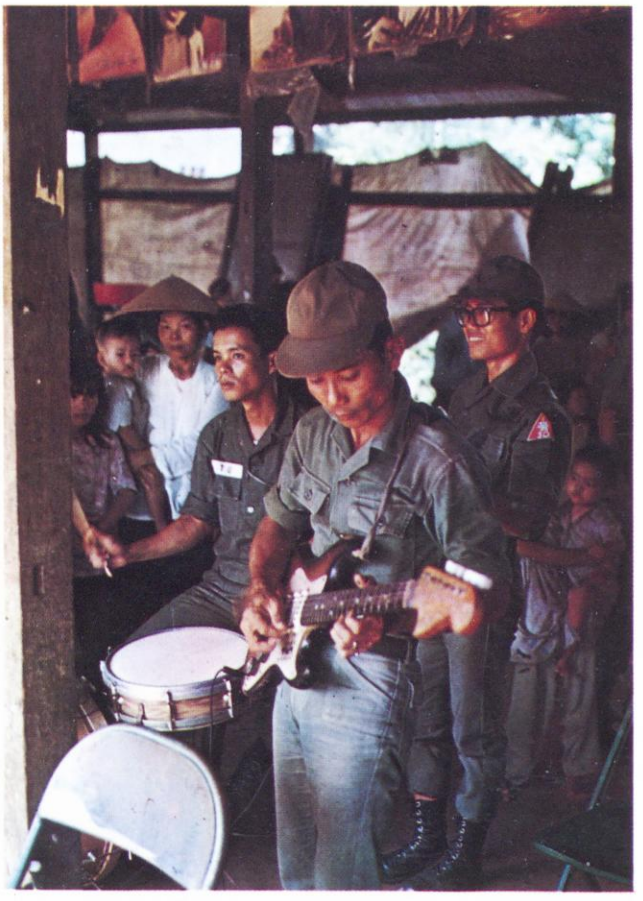
As the medical and civic action tents are being set up, the Division Band wheels into a loose semi-circle to begin its part in the activities. Under the baton of Chief Warrant Officer Dean Schutz, Meadville, Pa., the band's music starts out in traditional style and then works its own way into popular and easy-listening songs. After a short break Master Sergeant Genarino Petracco, Birmingham, Ala., takes over and the villagers, both the very young and the very old, remain as though in a trance, fascinated by the sounds coming from the glittering yellow instrument (a tuba) coiled around a sergeant's body and the booming bass drum.

Taking turns with the BIG RED ONE band is a rhythmic combo from the 5th Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division with electric guitar, electric bass and drums. The group is sometimes accompanied by a Vietnamese singer.

Soon the medical and dental treatment tent is ready to receive patients. The portable dental chair in which Captain Herndon McConnell seats his patients is simple, but effective. On any given day the Houston dentist will treat well over two dozen patients, ranging in age from under 6 years to over 60.

A young mother is one of the first patients; the child in her arms watches the skillful hands and stainless



RHYTHMIC COMBO from the 5th ARVN Division helps to entertain the villagers as part of the day's festivities.

THE BIG RED ONE BAND is one of the highlights of any festival.

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SKILLFUL HANDS and stainless steel instruments enable Captain Herndon McConnell to provide important dental care to this elderly Vietnamese woman.

steel instruments reach into his mother's mouth. In a matter of minutes, it is all over.

The next patient is a little boy who looks to be about 7 years old. Your heart goes out to him because his two front teeth have become an example of what improper diet and lack of oral hygiene can do. He tightens up, but does not utter a sound, as Captain McConnell deftly extracts the two teeth and checks the others. The youngster will suffer a little pain and be inconvenienced at the loss of two teeth, but this is a small price to pay compared to what it would be like if they were left in to continue to decay.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR TREATMENT are written out by Lieutenant Colonel Patrick N. Tisdale, commander of the 1st Medical Battalion.

THE TREATMENT is administered by Specialist 6 Rodolfo Evangelista.

The 1st Med Bn commander, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick N. Tisdale, a pediatrician from Silver Spring, Md., sees what must appear to him as an endless stream of people, all with one ailment or another, real or imagined.

Skin sores and respiratory diseases dominate the ailments treated, although occasionally a major health problem, such as tuberculosis, crops up and it must be referred to a province hospital for proper treatment and care.

Through an interpreter Colonel Tisdale listens to an explanation of what the patient thinks is wrong, checks with stethoscope and other medical instruments, then writes instructions to Specialist 6 Rodolfo Evangelista for treatment. An injection and oral medication may be the remedy or it might be the cleaning out of an old sore; whatever the case, the Colorado Springs, Colo., native has the answer laid out on a long table, ready to administer.

Rice, captured from the Viet Cong, has been cooking for a long time over a wood fire, checked now and then by Khu Van Ky, a *Hoi Chanh* (former Viet Cong), who now works for the Division G-5 office. When the food is ready, the men of the 2d Bde's S-5 office take their

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COOKING rice is checked by Khu Van Ky, a Hoi Chanh now working with the Division G-5 office.

places behind the chow line and the deluge of villagers begins.

Later, Captain George A. Garrity, Montclair, N.J., makes himself the hit of the festival by passing out small bags filled with candy, plastic toys and combs. He is mobbed in the rush of each child to get his own bag.

As all good things must end, so also must this BIG RED ONE "Hamlet Festival." The medics treated well over 200 people, thousands were fed and the people went back to their homes appreciative and happy.

The other set of "weapons" was used today.

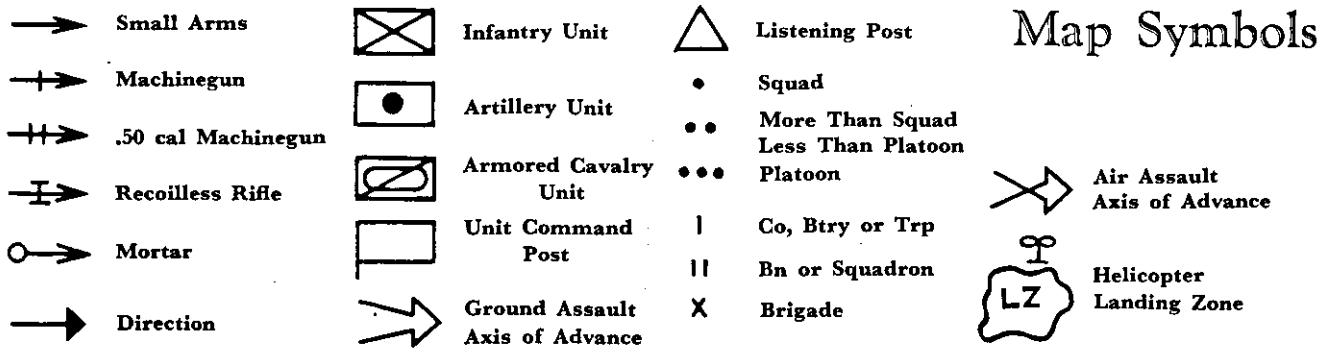
THE NOON MEAL provided by Division civil affairs personnel is always savored by those attending a BIG RED ONE "Hamlet Festival."

BALLOONS AND RICE are just two of the "other weapons" the Division uses to combat communism in South Vietnam. (Below) INSTANT HAPPINESS for these Vietnamese youngsters is Captain George A. Garrity passing out packets of candy and toys.

STATISTICS SUMMARY

BATTLES	UNITS INVOLVED	US COMMANDERS	ENEMY KIA*
Ap Bau Bang II (20 Mar 1967)	3/5 Cav(-) OPCON US A & B Btry, 7/9 Arty OPCON A Btry, 8/6 Arty B Btry, 1/84 Arty A Co, 1st Avn Bn D Trp(Air), 1/4 Cav and Command Group VC 2d & 3d Bn, 273d Regt, one local guerilla company	3/5 Cav — LTC Sidney S. Haszard 7/9 Arty — LTC Wallace E. Nickel 8/6 Arty — LTC Benjamin B. Safar 1st Avn Bn — LTC Algin S. Hawkins 1/4 Cav — LTC Thomas W. Fife	227
Story on Page 11			
Ap Gu (31 Mar–1 Apr 1967)	1/26 Inf US 1/16 Inf 1/2 Inf B & C Btry, 1/7 Arty A & D Btry, 8/6 Arty 1st Avn Bn VC 1st, 2d & 3d Bn, 271st Regt, 1/70 Security Guard Regt	1/26 Inf — LTC Alexander M. Haig 1/16 Inf — LTC Rufus C. Lazzell 1/2 Inf — LTC William C. Simpson 1/7 Arty — LTC George L. McFadden 8/6 Arty — LTC Benjamin B. Safar 1st Avn Bn — LTC Algin S. Hawkins	609
Story on Page 14			
Xom Bo I (14 June 1967)	B Co, 1/16 Inf US 8/6 Arty 173rd Avn Co, 11th Avn Bn 1st Avn Bn D Trp(Air), 1/4 Cav VC elements of 271st Regt	1/16 Inf — LTC Rufus C. Lazzell 8/6 Arty — LTC Benjamin B. Safar 11th Avn Bn — LTC Leo E. Soucek 1st Avn Bn — LTC Algin S. Hawkins 1/4 Cav — LTC John W. Seigle	60
Story on Page 24			
Xom Bo II (17 June 1967)	1/16 Inf(-) US 2/28 Inf(-) 2/33 Arty 8/6 Arty A Co, 1st Avn Bn 1/18 Inf(-) 187th Avn Co (II FFV RRF) VC 1/271 Regt	1/16 Inf — LTC Rufus C. Lazzell 2/28 Inf — LTC Jerry S. Edwards 2/33 Arty — LTC Charles D. Daniel 8/6 Arty — LTC Benjamin B. Safar 1st Avn Bn — LTC Algin S. Hawkins 1/18 Inf — LTC Richard E. Cavazos	222 * KIA — *Killed In Action*
Story on Page 25			

Map Symbols



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SOLDIER AND SCOUT DOG helped to man the perimeter at LZ X-Ray during the 17 June battle.

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